



Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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### 3. New Business

#### a) Permit 24-013 Gaiovnik Subdivision

Victoria D’Amico introduced permit 24-013, located on the corner where North Shore Trail meets North Shore Circle. This permit triggers rules 3.0 and 4.0 for erosion control and a wetland vegetated buffer. Greg Graske explained there is an existing house on the lot, but the active subdividing of the lot is triggering the buffer rule for both the existing home and the new home area. The rules require a 50-foot buffer. EOR is recommending approval of the conditions in the engineer’s report. These include revising and recording the buffer maintenance declaration and placing buffer markers before any soil is moved.

Manager Schmaltz asked a clarifying question about the colors used on the design plat. Mr. Graske clarified, purple is upland and part of the recorded buffer, and green is the wetland. Not all the wetland is shaded in, but most of the lot is wetland.

Mike Sandager mentioned the delineation of the wetland was done 5 years ago and is still valid. Manager Schmaltz noted the delineation was done in the middle of the drought. Mr. Sandager noted the delineation does consider the drought conditions when assessing wetlands. Wetlands can appear and disappear over time, but the landowner is following the Wetland Conservation Act.

Manager Schmaltz moved to approve permit application #24-013 with conditions stated in the April 28, 2025 Engineer Report. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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#### b) Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Applications

Blayne Eineichner introduced the agenda item to apply for two grants from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund. One would be to develop and work on the

72 greenbelt/open space greenway initiative. The other is restoration plans for the Bone  
73 Lake South property. District Staff are working closely with EOR to determine the  
74 amount of funding the District would apply for based on a prioritization of greenbelt  
75 parcels for purchase or easements to create a green corridor, and developing a cost  
76 to implement the necessary restoration at the Bone Lake South property.

77  
78 Manager Bakke asked Mr. Eineichner to elaborate on the Bone Lake South Restoration.  
79 Mr. Eineichner noted the primary need for wetland restoration is to remove a legacy  
80 phosphorus load caused by the nearby farm. The ultimate end goal would be to have  
81 native prairie and oak savanna habitat, with a trail system that is open to the public.

82  
83 President Anderson asked if the District would like more properties to add to the  
84 greenway corridor. Mr. Eineichner noted the District has a long list from EOR  
85 prioritizing wetland habitats and areas that are flood prone. President Anderson  
86 indicated she may offer thoughts to Mr. Eineichner regarding properties for the  
87 project. Mr. Graske noted that the grant is meant to be broad and does not include  
88 specific parcels. The grant proposal will focus mainly on the parcels immediately  
89 adjacent to the Sunrise River between Forest Lake and Comfort Lake.

90  
91 Manager Schmaltz asked if the greenbelt grant will help with flooding or is mainly  
92 focused on conservation. Mr. Eineichner stated the prioritization takes into account  
93 the ability to store water on the landscape and to truly establish a corridor.

94  
95 Manager Schmaltz urged staff to consider what other grants may support the flood  
96 mitigation program. Mr. Graske assured the managers that Ms. Heinz and EOR are  
97 looking at other grant opportunities. He also mentioned this will not create an  
98 immediate greenway corridor; it's a 20–30 year vision.

99  
100 President Anderson moved to authorize the District Administrator to submit grant  
101 applications to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund and to execute the grant  
102 agreement(s), if awarded. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the  
103 motion carried 5-0.

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Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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107 **c) Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership 10-Year Plan Amendment**

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President Anderson summarized that the draft 10-Year Plan for the Lower St. Croix Partnership did not include the network of tributaries to the lower St. Croix River. There is now a map within the plan that shows the tributaries that flow directly into the river.

Manager Schmaltz read the following excerpt from the proposed amendment to the plan:

*Direct drainage and direct catchments: The stream, river, or land area that drains directly to the St. Croix River or Lake St. Croix and that is downstream of a pollutant-mitigating feature such lake, impoundment, pond, or large wetland. (Does not apply in Sunrise River due to the significant pollution contributions from the entire subwatershed and the complex nature of wetlands, impoundments, and connected drainage areas throughout the subwatershed.)*

Manager Schmaltz asked if the District is eliminated because of the statement inside the parentheses. He asked Counsel Holtman to clarify the legal meaning. He said the intent of the amending text is unclear, and that he would need to look at how it fits into the document. President Anderson noted there are 60 days to make this decision, it does not need to be decided at this meeting. Manager Schmaltz expressed concern about not being able to receive the funds. President Anderson said she asked about the Sunrise River near the District at the Lower St. Croix Policy Committee and she was told all the redlines on the map qualify. She stated she wants to get this question clarified before the Board votes on it.

President Anderson moved to postpone action on the Lower St. Croix 10-year plan amendment. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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**d) Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Grant Work Plan Amendment**

President Anderson asked the Board to look at the proposed grant work plan. She mentioned the two lead agencies on this matter are Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, as the fiscal agent, and Washington Conservation District. Item

144 #1 of the proposed grant work plan revisions adds forest management and  
145 woodlands stewardship plans as eligible activities. Item #2 amends the budget to  
146 allow for Item #1.

147  
148 Manager Toavs moved to approve the Lower St. Croix grant work plan amendment  
149 as presented. Seconded by President Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion  
150 carried 5-0.

151

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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153 **e) Review of Governance Manual**

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155 Counsel Holtman noted the Governance Manual states that it will be reviewed  
156 annually, to address changes in the laws and any other matters that the managers  
157 or staff have observed may be better addressed. He conveyed he is not aware of any  
158 changes in the law. President Anderson noted she has several changes she would  
159 recommend and will work with Counsel Holtman and Administrator Kinney to bring  
160 these to the Board. Other managers were encouraged to look through the manual  
161 and send comments to Administrator Kinney or President Anderson.

162

163 **f) Wake Boat Control in Freshwater Lakes**

164

165 President Anderson had asked staff to prepare maps showing, based on bathymetry,  
166 where on each lake it is acceptable to have wake boats. Staff provided a map for  
167 each lake with a public boat launch.

168

169 Manager Bakke asked President Anderson what actions the Comfort Lakes  
170 Association has taken on this matter and what that plan is. President Anderson said  
171 the Comfort Lakes Association will be going directly to Chisago County to propose  
172 restrictions.

173

174 President Anderson stated the District's goal is to understand the damage that the  
175 wake boats do to the shoreline and the lakes.

176

177 President Schmaltz asked Counsel Holtman the legal steps that were required to  
178 pass the ordinance for Caribou Lake in Cook County, as mentioned in the board  
179 packet. Counsel Holtman indicated he was not familiar with this exact ordinance, but

180 under state law, the authority to adopt such ordinances lies with the counties.  
181 Although if a lake is entirely within a city boundary, the city can adopt an ordinance.  
182 The counties are the entity to regulate surface use, under DNR supervision and  
183 approval.

184  
185 Aidan Read added that in the case of Caribou Lake, the ordinance first needed to be  
186 approved at the county level, but the DNR reviewed the ordinance.

187  
188 **g) Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour**

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190 Manager Schmaltz asked if CAC members are also able to attend. President  
191 Anderson expressed she is not able to make it to this Summer Tour, but Manager  
192 Schmaltz said he plans on attending.

193  
194 Manager Anderson moved to authorize reimbursement for managers, staff, and  
195 members of the Citizens Advisory Committee attending the Minnesota Watersheds  
196 tour. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

197

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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199 **h) Pizza Pub Shoreline**

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201 Photos taken by Aidan Read were presented on the screen. The first was a picture  
202 from 2023 of the Pizza Pub at Willow Point with a natural shoreline with cattails. The  
203 second was a picture showing some work that was done at the shoreline in 2025.

204  
205 President Anderson asked Mike Sandager to elaborate on the issue. Mr. Sandager  
206 explained that the Pizza Pub applied for an aquatic plant management permit from  
207 the DNR to remove the cattails. During a shoreline inventory, District staff noticed the  
208 cattail removal and contacted the DNR. The DNR does not find that the work is in  
209 violation of the permit. Mr. Sandager noted the material stockpiled on the shoreline  
210 and indicated that to his inspection, it is stockpiled vegetative material with  
211 incidental bed material entrained with the vegetation.

212  
213 Manager Schmaltz expressed concern that the particular shoreline is vulnerable to  
214 prevailing winds. President Anderson noted that boat traffic would only aggravate  
215 this. She expressed an interest in working with Administrator Kinney and staff to

216 engage the DNR about DNR administration of its aquatic plant removal regulatory  
217 program.

218

219 Mr. Read added he has been participating in a subcommittee of the Minnesota  
220 Natural Shoreline Partnership, a group comprising watershed districts, soil and water  
221 conservation districts, non-profits and the DNR. The subcommittee is currently  
222 working on a white paper, including a list of recommendations from different agency  
223 staff, to be provided to the DNR.

224

225 President Anderson asked that the white paper be shared with the board once it is  
226 ready.

227

228 Manager Loth asked for an explanation from the DNR about how this aligns with its  
229 mission statement.

230

#### 231 **4. Old Business**

##### 232 **a) Program Signage**

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234 Adam Hjelm stated the District has been working with Pinnacle to design signage, a  
235 component of the Education and Outreach program. Several of the project sites have  
236 signage grant funding available until the end of December.

237

238 Mr. Hjelm noted some of the key factors in designing a sign. Several designs were  
239 shown, and President Anderson suggested managers communicate their comments  
240 to Mr. Hjelm.

241

242 Manager Schmaltz asked if there had been any benchmarking on what other  
243 watershed districts are doing for their signage. Mr. Hjelm responded that many of the  
244 other watershed districts do not create signs for large projects unless it is required  
245 by a grant. Many of the other watersheds focus on interactive signage, which the  
246 District plans on doing at Moody Lake.

247

248 President Anderson asked about the pricing of the sign. Mr. Hjelm was unsure about  
249 the price in the metro area. President Anderson asked if Pinnacle fabricates and  
250 installs signs and Mr. Hjelm responded that it mainly works out of Bemidji and the  
251 District would need a metro area bid.

252

253 Manager Loth asked for an update on boundary signage. Mr. Hjelm has reached out  
254 to many watershed districts and most of the boundary signage that can be seen  
255 was grandfathered in. Most of the counties and the state do not allow these kinds of  
256 signs in the public right-of-way since they are not deemed a priority.

257

258 Manager Schmaltz asked if these same guidelines pertain to the District’s project  
259 signage. Mr. Hjelm said project signs will have to be on the project and not the right-  
260 of-way; another reason why the signs must be so big.

261

262 **b) State of the Watershed**

263

264 Mr. Hjelm introduced the agenda item, stating he has been working with the  
265 American Legion to set a date, and right now the best date is September 30. The  
266 schedule will be very similar to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary State of the Watershed.

267

268 President Anderson indicated she is glad this event is happening again, stating the  
269 event is meant to be an annual occurrence.

270

271 Manager Bakke asked if there are other venue options besides the Legion. Mr. Hjelm  
272 said he looked at other venues for the 2024 event, but nothing compared to the price  
273 of the Legion. That’s why it is the only venue being considered for this year. The room  
274 is free if food is purchased.

275

276 Manager Schmaltz expressed concern with spending public money on food. He  
277 asked Counsel Holtman if there are any statutes that apply to spending public  
278 money on food. Manager Loth suggested that other forms of communication and  
279 engagement are expensive and sees this as an opportunity to connect with the  
280 general public.

281

282 Counsel Holtman responded there is not a specific prohibition on spending money  
283 on food. It falls into the category of the board exercising its judgment that the  
284 expenditure will advance District purposes. He noted that, as Manager Loth  
285 suggested, if the board finds that it’s a good way to get a lot of people educated and  
286 results in benefits and progress for the District, that is an adequate justification.

287

288 **c) North Shore Circle Park Restoration**

289

290 Mr. Read noted that the City of Forest Lake recently did a project at the vacant city  
291 lot known as North Shore Circle Park, where it constructed a stormwater basin.  
292 Residents were told that there was likely to be a shoreline restoration of some sort,  
293 and the District stepped in. The District received a DNR Conservation Partners Legacy  
294 grant and has been able to partner with the City on getting this restoration underway.  
295 The District will also be using some funds from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership  
296 grant for this project as well.

297

298 Manager Schmaltz moved to direct the Administrator to enter into an agreement  
299 with Shoreline Landscaping to implement the North Shore Circle Park Shoreline

300 Restoration for a sum of \$34,655.50. Seconded by Manager Loth. Upon a roll call vote,  
 301 the motion carried 5-0.  
 302

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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 304 **5. Program/Project Update**

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 306 **a) Project Update**

307  
 308 Blayne Eineichner provided an update on active projects:

- 309 - The District closed on the property for the Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter.  
 310 - Staff have been in contact with the landowners at the end of Goodwin Road  
 311 where the District is proposing to implement a stormwater wetland project.  
 312

313 **b) Program Update**

314  
 315 Mr. Hjelm prepared a YouTube video and presentation in the board packet.  
 316

317 **6. Report of Officers and Managers**

318  
 319 Manager Schmaltz brought up that the District was required to switch its herbicide  
 320 choice at the last minute for the Bone Lake and Forest Lake curly-leaf pondweed  
 321 treatments. He suggested that because it is advisable to vary chemical choice, the  
 322 District might plan to use the more expensive treatment when the acreage to be treated  
 323 is smaller. Manager Loth suggested asking Steve McComas why the growth was so  
 324 significant this year. Manager Toavs mentioned that Moody Lake is having an issue with  
 325 curly-leaf pondweed.  
 326

327 **7. Summary and Approval of Board Direction**

328  
 329 The following board directives were summarized:

- 330 • President Anderson will work with staff on developing an approach about shoreline  
 331 vegetation protection.  
 332 • Staff will share the Natural Shoreline Partnership white paper with the Board when it  
 333 is complete.  
 334

335 **8. Adjourn**  
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**a) Next regular board meeting – May 22, 2025, 6:30 pm**

Manager Toavs moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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Dave Bakke, Secretary -----